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"Give light and the people will find their own way."

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Dr. Dooley's 'Foreign Aid'

DR. TOM DOOLEY, the irrepressible ex-Navy doctor, who is making a career of introducing modern medical care to the black magic areas of the world, has a well-organized philosophy about his work which appropriately could be applied to the Government's vast foreign aid program.

"We are simply doctors who want to take care of people who are sick," he said. "We are not salesmen; for anything."

He and his staff avoid trying to sell their patients anything but good health. If some of the American way of life rubs off on these people, well and good, but that is not the doctors' aim.

"We are not setting up small American dynasties," he said.

Wherever a hospital is established by Medico, the private organization Dr. Dooley helped found, the host government is required to supply a maximum share of the facilities and natives are taught to serve in the hospital.

"We demand that it be their hospital," he said, and his purpose is to turn it over

to local management as soon as possible, "so we can get the hell out and go home."

Moreover, every single patient is required to pay. . . "this is not a charity program." They pay, with chickens, pigs, eggs, whatever they can offer, but they pay something.

"No one expects to get anything for free," he said. "This endless giving away saps a nation as well as people."

And this some of our foreign-aid people well could take to heart:

"No government program can go into a village and become a part of the village, only individuals can do that. But government programs can appear to interfere with a local government or nationalism—our program does not."

Our foreign aid program was designed to help other nations help themselves—not to do everything for them. It has strayed from its original intent. The remarkable success of Dr. Dooley's efforts, based wholly on the "compassion of medicine," is ample evidence of the soundness of his philosophy.

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